

*SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS*

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10 with:

For connection of a thermoplastic elastomer article such as escalator handrail that includes a large number of reinforcing cables or a slider knit, two ends of the article are cut along with the existing reinforcing cable to form patterns engaging with each other, and both ends are brought into engagement. Thereafter, the end portions are placed in a mold together with a resin sheet to be an outer layer and a slider knit, which have been preliminarily made, and press-molded to complete a connection article. This connection product is disclosed in the ~~Gazette of the~~ International Patent Publication No. WO 97/37834.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 21 with:

However, in the connection article without connection between the reinforcing cables as described above, there is a possibility that any breakage that occurs will occur at a joint portion therebetween. It is further possible that the joint portion of the article is stretched during moving, thereby causing any change in dimensions due to the use of thermoplastic elastomer.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 28 with:

The invention has an object of providing a moving handrail for a passenger conveyor including a metal stretch inhibitor and connecting metal stretch inhibitors to each other by an adhesive or welding, in which a joint portion of the moving handrail is prevented from being stretched. The invention has a further object of providing a moving handrail in which durability of the joint portion is further improved.